



# Richardson's Bay Regional Agency

February 21, 2019

Presentation to BCDC Enforcement Committee

# Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA)



Formed in 1985 to locally and jointly manage  
the waters of Richardson's Bay

Belvedere  
City Council Member  
Marty Winter

Mill Valley  
City Council Member  
Jim Wickham

## JPA Board of Directors

Tiburon  
Town Council Member  
Jim Fraser

County of Marin  
Supervisor, District 3  
Kathrin Sears

## How is it governed?

Joint Powers Agency comprised of all the agencies on Richardson's Bay shoreline, except Sausalito – which withdrew from JPA July 2017.

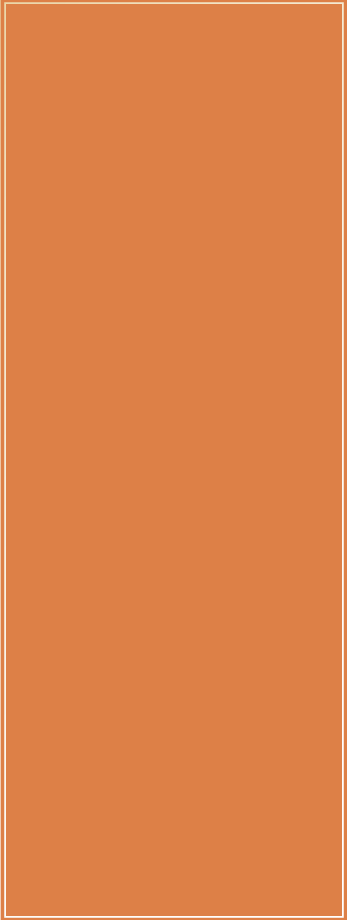
# Local Resources

- ❑ FY 18-19 Budget: \$701,896
- ❑ \$200,00: SAVE reimbursements, Boating & Waterways
- ❑ Includes \$415,196 from member agencies:
  - ❑ County: 65.4%
  - ❑ Tiburon: 15.4%
  - ❑ Belvedere: 11.5%
  - ❑ Mill Valley: 7.7%
- ❑ Marin County Sheriff Marine Patrol Unit

# Successes

- Good water quality test results
- Own pump-out vessel
- Obtain and utilize funds from State Boating & Waterways to abate marine debris and abandoned vessels
- Rapid response program to address vessels in distress
- Special Anchorage Association formation and efforts to improve vessel conditions and mariner safety

# Current Conditions

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- ❑ Approximately 200 vessels in RBRA waters
  - ❑ Estimated  $\pm$  50% lived aboard
  - ❑ New vessels arriving from other waterways
  - ❑ Removal of vessels – average 70/year

# Challenges

## Overabundant Supply Of Vessels

- Continuous stream of vessels at the end of their useful life
- Boats acquired for very little \$\$
- Little incentive to turn them in
- Don't have to demonstrate wherewithal to acquire a boat
- Limiting options in anchorages, harbors and marinas due to:
  - ▣ Enforcement actions
  - ▣ Tightened requirements
  - ▣ Cost of slip fees
  - ▣ Capacity

# Challenges



Protecting valuable  
eelgrass and other  
marine ecology  
considerations from  
anchored vessels

Unsecured vessels affect  
the safety of persons  
and property



# Challenges

Boats became  
alternative  
housing with onset  
of housing crisis

- Persons without mariner skills, knowledge and abilities moved onto vessels beginning with the recession
- Related to cost and shortage of affordable housing

# Challenges



Consideration for  
people on the  
anchorage

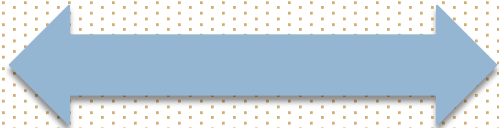
Varying intentions and  
capacities

Resource:

Rev. Paul Mowry  
Sausalito Presbyterian  
Church, who engages  
with people on the  
anchorage

# Challenges

Cultural, Social or Values Tension:

Liveaboard anchorage  open water

On one end: History of vessel habitation before regulations; some have lived on bay for decades

On another end: Policies that bay is not for residential use; concerns about ecology, safety and free use

Middle area: Is there a path that respects the concerns of both ends

# RBRA: Seeking resolution - 2018

- Adopted Guiding Principles: *Relationships with stakeholders: regard for specialized experience and knowledge; concern for impact on lives and on environmental conditions; communication between RBRA and the community; opportunities for collaboration; fiscal responsibility; deliberate speed in achieving results; regard for implementation, enforcement and maintenance; meeting protocols*
- Conducted community engagement and work sessions on options for Board direction

# RBRA Goals & Direction

## Goals

Improve health, safety,  
and management of  
the bay

## Direction

Pursue the potential  
for secure moorings as  
a means to achieve  
the goals

# Mooring Advantages

## Health of the Bay

Proper placement,  
location and equipment  
to minimize impacts on  
eelgrass

## Safety in the Bay

Appropriate mooring  
equipment properly  
placed and maintained  
diminishes risk of vessels  
breaking loose

# Mooring Advantages



## Management



Through a mooring system, can readily identify authorized and unauthorized vessels

Means of implementing vessel requirements – monitoring, notification, and enforcement

# Informing Mooring Potential

Marine ecology-based  
mooring feasibility and planning study  
underway by  
Merkel & Associates  
Includes Sausalito waters



# Marine-ecology mooring study

In light of eelgrass, bathymetry, wind & waves, birds, and any other marine ecology conditions, what are advisable/inadvisable....

- Mooring locations
- Mooring equipment/technique
- Overall capacity for moorings/vessels
- Transiting between vessels and shore via motorized or non-motorized skiffs

# Other RBRA Steps

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## Ordinance with vessel requirements:

- ▣ Seaworthy
- ▣ Operable
- ▣ Adequate sanitation facilities
- ▣ Registration

# Other RBRA Steps

November 8, 2018:

RBRA Board Resolution  
No. 10-18 setting  
priorities for efforts to  
improve marine health  
and safety through  
enforcement

Priorities:

- Unoccupied marine debris
- Unattended/unused mooring balls and floats
- Unregistered vessels
- Unattended and unoccupied vessels

# Other RBRA Steps

- Communication with the City of Sausalito, and with the Richardson's Bay Special Anchorage Association and members of the anchorage community
- Other stakeholder communication & engagement
- NOAA Marine debris removal grant application

# RBRA Next Steps

Apply study findings to make informed decisions about pursuing moorings:

- If; and if so, where, how many, what type
- Liveaboard, unoccupied vessels and/or transient vessel utilization of moorings
- Mooring requirements
- Shore access
- Achieving congruence with policies, plans and regs
- Financially sustainable management and enforcement

# RBRA Request to BCDC

## Recognize:

- Challenges to the management and enforcement of vessels on Richardson's bay
- Local agency efforts for local solutions to improving health, safety, and management of the bay
- Moorings as a potential means of achieving enforcement and improved health, safety, and management

[rbra.ca.gov](http://rbra.ca.gov)

Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 5:30 pm

Tiburon Town Hall (Back-up: Belvedere City Hall)